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out antagonisms, but that the superior people should do all in its power to improve the condition of the inferior. They find that their fears of negro domination have been largely groundless, and they are beginning sincerely to appreciate the progress which the colored people have made both intellectually and industrially.

Mr. Booker T. Washington, who is doing so much for the industrial development of the negro, was recently invited to come from his home at Tuskegee, Ala., to Durham, N. C., to attend a colored fair. This is in the region where the Ku Klux Klans once did their horrible deeds. Mr. Washington went expecting to find the fair a small and insignificant thing. On the contrary, to his delight he found it a large and well-arranged exhibit of the products of the intelligence and skill of the negroes. Not least significant to him was the sincere interest in the exhibit shown by leading white men and women of the community who attended in large numbers. While at Durham he was invited by the president of Trinity College to visit the institution and make an address to the three hundred white boys being educated there. He was received with perfect courtesy and real cordiality, and in his presence the president took occasion to speak in the most emphatic way of the interest which the white population should take in the education and moral training of the colored people. When Mr. Washington was departing the College boys gave him the College salute with apparently as much cordiality as if he had been a white man.

This incident, with others of like character, indicates that a great change has come over the South. It has much more significance than the fact that in the late national election the Southern white people divided their votes between parties in a much more normal way than they have before done since the close of the war. This latter fact was in part a surface indication of the underlying change of spirit of which we are speaking, and in part due to the disappearance of the Southern question as it has heretofore existed in national politics. It is, of course, a great satisfaction to know that this question, which so long embittered the two sections of the country against each other, is dead forever, that no action of national parties can ever revive it. With its disappearance, what animosity still remains between the South and the North will speedily give way, and this will re-act favorably upon the South itself, where many grave problems yet remaining will find a peaceful solution by the normal activities of the Southern people themselves.

There are, of course, still people in the South who cling to the old order and endeavor to keep the wall of ill-feeling as high as possible between the two races. But the recent decision of the Florida courts that the Sheats law was unconstitutional shows that these people have had their day. This law made it a crime for white and colored children to be taught in the same school, even

though it were a private school. After a full hearing on the real merits of the question, the Circuit Court said that the law could not stand, under the constitution of Florida. This decision is of tremendous significance, as it is a purely Southern one. The New South is rapidly throwing off the shackles of the old régime, and an era of great prosperity and genuine peace is opening before it, in which, while doubtless certain race limits will never be passed, yet both races will work together with increasing mutual respect and harmony, and public laws will cease to interfere with the essential rights and liberties of individuals, acting either in an individual or collective capacity. Under these new conditions of peace and harmony, the South has a great future of moral and material development before it, and splendid opportunities to make itself felt, in an altogether new way, both in the nation and in the world.

#### EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC DUPLICITY.

The most startling event in Europe during the past month was Prince Bismarck's disclosure through the Hamburg *Nachrichten* of the existence of a secret treaty of neutrality between Germany and Russia from 1884 to 1890, which was not renewed by the Chancellor's successor when he was dismissed by the Emperor. According to this treaty, if Germany should be attacked, say by France, Russia was to hold aloof; if Russia should be attacked by an enemy, Austria for example, Germany was to preserve a friendly neutrality.

This revelation seems to have been made primarily because of Bismarck's long-cherished dislike of William II., and secondarily because of the recent events in France, in connection with the visit of the Czar, which made it perfectly clear that France and Russia, which the Iron Chancellor had so long tried to keep apart, had come into the most cordial relations with each other. Bismarck virtually charges the Emperor and Count von Caprivi with having brought on the alliance between France and Russia, by dropping the secret agreement with Russia in 1890. The failure to renew it he seems to have regarded as a criticism of himself, and the policy which he had followed. The temptation to smite back offered by the recent open evidence of the Franco-Russian alliance was too great for the man of iron, and so he let the whole diplomatic secret out of the state bag.

It is not strange that this proceeding has created a good deal of commotion in all the nations of the Triple and of the Dual Alliance, and that it has led to an interpellation in the German Parliament. Nor is it strange that the German government should have refused to say anything about it. It has shown all of the five nations, and all others, what deceitful and treacherous things alliances are which grow out of narrow selfish interest and senseless chauvinism. We hope the old Chancellor's dis-

closures, however unworthy of him they may be, may prove to be a step toward the breaking up and discontinuance forever of all such alliances. Europe can never be delivered from her burdens and come to real prosperity and peace until a new spirit pervades her international relations, a spirit which will act in an open, honest and straightforward way, and abandon forever the crooked and lying methods of "back stairs" diplomacy.

So far as these disclosures concern Bismarck himself, they throw great discredit upon both his patriotism and his morality. They indicate that in his view Germany is only another way of spelling Bismarck, and that he cares after all very little into what sort of an embarrassment his country may be brought provided he can keep himself the biggest object before the eyes of the public. He must have known, unless age has put his mind into dotage, that only embarrassment could come to his country from the revelations, and possibly the alienation of both Austria and Italy, whose alliance with Germany had been his own work. But his cool, calculating self-interest in this direction, which has but little of the elements of true patriotism in it, is quite matched by the heartless lack of conscience shown by his conduct in making such a secret treaty in the first place. Whatever excuse may be offered for his conduct drawn from the nature of the Triple Alliance and that of the secret treaty with Russia, yet his proceeding in the matter was essentially deceitful and intended to mislead. Nothing could have induced him, when in power, to let Austria know that he was flirting with Russia.

But in these matters Bismarck has been neither worse nor better than the usual European statesman. Any minister of state in Austria, Italy or France would, under the same circumstances, probably have done as he has done, if he had had the brains and personal force of character to do it. Europe needs not only a new order of internationalism to which all sorts of alliances growing out of hate and distrust and national pride are impossible, but it needs more still a new order of statesmen to create and support the new internationalism. The man of "blood and iron" and calculating selfishness in Europe cannot too soon give way to the man of conscience and love, in whom all dark, "back stairs" methods shall have been replaced by an open, front-door diplomacy which would soon create an international trust that would remove all occasion for triple or dual or any other sort of war alliances. If Europe is a long way from such a type of statesmen, then she is a long way from rest and peace.

We are sorry that the state of things made known by Bismarck's disclosures could not have been probed to the bottom. The Reichstag ought to have pushed the interpellation and made the government tell all that it knows. The policy of concealment will keep Germany in an

awkward position for a long time. The German people have a right to know, and they ought to insist on knowing, what is done in the diplomatic closet, when this involves seriously their own personal and national interests and honor. This is the age of the people, and they must take the foreign as well as domestic affairs of their countries more and more into their own hands. Bismarck's great service to his country is not to be denied, but the days of Bismarckian internationalism have gone by.

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#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

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We send our warmest holiday greetings and best wishes to all the friends of peace, on this side of the Atlantic and the other, to whom this paper may come. Thoughts of peace and feelings of goodwill are naturally inspired by the return of the Christmas season with its holy memories. What the world needs above all things for the establishment of peace is right thought, right sentiment, right purpose, of man to man, of people to people. When these are firmly rooted in men's natures, all else follows naturally and in due time. But if men and nations will not obey the law of love and think and feel rightly about one another, all their policies and measures of reform and improvement are empty imaginings. Let the Christmas festival deepen in all our hearts those feelings of brotherly love for all men of all lands out of which the peace movement sprang and from which it draws its strength and its hope. We shall thus be better friends of peace and braver and more hopeful workers for the concord of the world.

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The annual Thanksgiving season is over. There have been many things during the year for which all thoughtful citizens have found it their duty and their joy to give thanks to Almighty God. The blessings of his love, his daily goodness, his abundant grace, have been continued with undiminished fulness to the minds and hearts of all the people without regard to their material condition. This is, after all, every year the chief reason for thanksgiving, that the divine sources of spiritual well being are never closed to any. In this blessing poor and rich alike may rejoice and give thanks. For he who has the opportunity of a character made of God has the best opportunity that any human being can have, in this world or any other. This is the *summum bonum* of life. In material blessings also the country has not been half so poor as many have gloomily imagined. There has been depression and uncertainty and great mental anxiety, but of actual suffering for food and clothing there has been very little. There has been greatly lessened opportunity to make money, but that is not by a long way the greatest misfortune that can come to a country. Among the chief causes of gratitude has been the fact that our nation, in spite of disturbed relations with Great Britain, in spite of